onishing Sums Awarded Plaintiffs by Juries

DAMAGING ACCIDENTS

Baldwin Sues for a Quarter of Million Dollars, the Sum Osco Awarded a Plaintill

of a million dollars damages the New York Central Railroad

univertal opinion among those r with the facts of the case that se will be awarded by the jury of by the railread company if in indeed to not compromised stiled before the case reaches

A furture, indeed, in damages. Yet it is doubtful if the most greveling money changer in the whole world, the most despairing wretch, who, for the lack of smough aliver to buy alcoholic oblivion, hape from a bridge or swallows rationase, would consent to undergo what this fruil little woman has suffered alter Christmas eve, 1891, even with the certainty that a quarter of a million dollars would eventually be awarded the sufferer and the lawyers.

Legal tent books will, beyond question, refer from this time on to the Baidwin case as a precedent. They do not give the facts of the most famous suit for damages up to this time, which

uit for damages up to this time, which mists in legal memories and by hearsay, ad which was an action for das for personal injuries brought by an eminent English physician. The story goes that he sustained such vital injuries while riding on the defendants' oad; that he was thenceforward incapacitated from professional practice. On the trial of the case it was shown, report says, that he carned comething 840,000, or \$900,000 a year, and the jury promptly brought in a verdict for \$505,000. This is said to be by all odds the greatest sum over awarded by a jury for personal injuries. Of course, there



THAT TROUGAND DOLLAR KING. here been immensely greater awards of liquidated damages, as they are tech-nically called, the amounts by the very nature of the case required to be awarded for breaches of contract. For example, in the superior court at Wilmington, Del., on January 2, 1896, a jury gare to Mrs. Elizabeth S. McComb in a suit against the Southern Railroad association a verdict for \$0,904,100. Certainly no other woman ever got such a verdict, and assuredly Mrs. Homer Bald-

win's will be equally "a leading case."
As the two famous instances have feminine plaintiffs it may be just as well before going further with the meation of enormous verdicts to speak of several other interesting actions for damages in which the fair sea has won signal victories.

In the case of Lockwood against the Twenty-third Street Railway Company, reported in the 38th volume of state reports, page 16, the court of appeals of New York held that a woman 43 years of age who had been thrown from a car and caived injuries to her sciatic nerve, which resulted in nervous prostration, could not be permitted to collect a ver-dict of \$10,000 which a jury had awarded her. The court calmiy informed the lady that unless she could be content to consent to the reduction of her little fortune in damages to \$4,000, it, the court, would have to grant the poor railroad company—the same one of which John D. Grimmins is now president—a brand new trial. And the lady,

Saying she would ne'er consent, consented! Yet courts have been very generous. Witness the following case:

A TROUSAND DOLLARS FOR A KISS. In the case of Craker against the Chipany, thirty-sixth Wisconsin report, page 657, the supreme court of the state held that the conductor of the car hav-ing kissed Miss Craker, the passenger and complainant, a verdict of \$1,000 was conive, as it was right and proper or the jury to take late consideration me the jury to take into consideration and "give liberal damages for her terror and saniety, her outraged feelings and musted virtue," and "all her mental bandlation and ouffering."

The feelings of that conductor, if that thousand deliars could have been de-

decision deliars sould have been de-decised in monthly installments from his some too lavish stipend, might rival anthony's after Actium, or those of laris after Trop, though he would not have had empthing like as much fun as her for his money. The decision does not mention wheth-

Miss Craker was a good looking mg woman or not. No plain woman at to go into this cort of speculation with the idea of making a living out of it. A jury would be just cranky enough to give the conductor damages if the were preven and the provocation

on June 18, 1989, Mrs. Armstrong falthin, of Suffern, N. J., came to New York with her maid and child, and, in passing, strank her loft knee against the sharp adge of a barred which had been set over an apon coal hale in the pave-ment in frost of Thomas Balton's build-ing on the southeast corner of Wanhing-ton and I Character as Wanhing-

CASH IN THE HURTS that her log was amputated at the that her leg was amputated at the thigh. She brought suit against the Moss Asphalt Company, whose work-men put the barrel in the coal hele, and on December 17, 1891, a jury in the su-



A PORTURE POR A RNOCK

ages. She was then just 33 years of age. Miss Clara A. Lake, of North Gage, M. Y., recovered on January 16, 1890, a verdict of \$5,000 damages against some reckless men of the vicinage who had some to "chivares" her on the supposition that she had been married, and with the rural idiesy commonly dis-played on such occasions, had fired a gun off and put out one of her eyes.

Miss Hannah Wherry's \$5,000 damage suit against the Brooklyn bridge trus-

tees, brought in January, 1893, for dam-ages caused by a splinter running through her shoe soft into her foot as she was walking over the promenade, is looked forward to with considerable interest by the legal fraternity.

ME PARRELL'S \$35,000 VERDICT. When Mr. Charles Stewart Parnell sued the London Times for a half a million dollars' damages and only re-covered \$65,000, the tories tried to encourage themselves to believe that the result was a virtual victory for the de-fense. But, as a matter of fact, verdicts

for damages in Great Britain, as in New York, rarely exceed the figures of Mr. Parnell's verdict.

The greatest sum ever recovered for personal injuries in Peansylvania is said to be \$48.750 given Mr. J. Rozen-sweig, of Brie, Pa., in an action against the Luke Shore Railroad Company. Mr. Rozensweig was a middle-acced man. Mr. Rosensweig was a middle-aged man; his earnings yearly ran from \$50,000 to \$40,000, and he was run over by one of the defendant's trains, after having been, without fault of his own, put off another. A Canadian blacksmith is said to have received \$25,000 some years ago from the Great Western railroad for similar injuries.

The court of appeals of New York in 1889 affirmed the judgment of the Orange circuit of the supreme court on a verdict of \$26,498 damages awarded to William N. Alberti, a passenger who had been injured in a sleeping car on the New York, Lake Erie & Western road by the swinging door of another

A most remarkable case is that of Martin Christianson, a Dane, who has brought suit for \$75,000 damages against a New York and Cuba Steam Company for injuries sustained from a fall down into the hold of one of the defendant's steamers. The spinal column was fractured above the lumbar region, and the man, who was taken to Bellevne hospital, not only did not die, but actually seemed after a time to have become well—above the waist. He very properly expects to be well paid for having been turned into a freak, a surgical marvel, a man who can live on and on after having sustained injuries which send most of their victims into the next world, but only killed one-half of Martin Christianson.

A freight brakeman has rights which some juries respect. H. L. Hall, while coupling cars on the Rock Island road. lost a leg. A jury at Fairfield, Is.,



MARTIN CHRISTIANSON'S FALL. gave him \$11,000 damages on February

20, 1890. \$35,000 FOR AN ARM.

In the case of Hickinbottom against the Delaware & Lackswanna Railroad Company, the court of appeals of New York held that a verdiot of \$25,000 for the loss of plaintiff's arm, where the injury incapacitated him for carrying on a business which brought him in \$2,-600 a year, was not excessive.

There are a great many men who ould quite willingly give an arm for that sum; but there are few juries, probably, who would make such an ward. The judges watch the amounts of verdicts very carefully. In Buck vs. Webb, 64 Hun., p. 185, the supreme court of New York declared that where no personal visience had been used a verdict of \$1,000 was excessive for requiring a passenger to ride in an ordi-nary our instead of a drawing-room car. The law says the jury must be the sole judges of the measure of dam-ages. But the judges and the other lawyers who are not on the bench are constantly Sading some legal excuse to take away from juries this constitutional prerogative. They interfere on the nd that a verdict has been rendered for an excessive amount by reason of passion" of "prejudice." They are, ined, continually interfering with what they say is "not legal," however right

\$35,000 BAMAGES FOR A BASY. In the case of Shrman against the Breeklyn City Railway Company, 30 New York state reports, page 500, the court of appeals habt that a verdiet of \$26,000 for a child there and a half years old, who lost his leg through the nega car driver, was not exREADY FOR ITS USE

At Least 40,000 People Present at the Completion

father at hose at Poughhouses, had to pay 27,500 to little Alice Bartholomew after she stopped in a hele in the farry house and was origined for life. Manuel Silberstein, a boy, get \$15,000

t is the Third and Largest of Their Central Temples-It Cost \$3,000,000 to Build as it Stands.

managed to get the verdict set saids. That is what corporations hire lawyers for. If they can't get such verdicts for. If they can't get such verdicts done away with legitimately they will actually set a trap for the trial judge, artfully inducing him to rule on some apparently minor question in direct contradiction to some decision of the court of appeals. Then these crafty fellows cease to care how large the verdict is. They feel sure they will get a reversal!

Little Manuel's suit, by the way, was tried a second time in November, 1890, and he got \$10,000 that time. Little Lena Schmidt was actually encouraged by the good fortune of some of her lit-tle fellow sitisens and fellow sufferers to sue the owners of a tenement at No.
223 East Thirty-sinth street for \$2,000
damages because a bluestone flag in
their yard fell on her toe and mashed it
so it had to be cut off. Lena's friends
saved the toe, thriftily, in alcohol, and showed it to the jury.

The Chicago & Northwestern subroad paid little Born Paine's guardies \$7,500 for having billed her mother and step-father at Rose Hill. The Highland

ges in the supreme court of Nev because a Houston street bobts

car ran over him and cut off his area.

But the corporation's shrewd lawyers

Some of the cyricatities of the law of negligence are worthy, from a newspa-per point of view, of an article all to themselves. If you, in broad daylight, go into a man's vineyard to borrow



GOT \$8,000.

some of his grapes without his knowledge and with so intention to repay the loan, you are a trespessor. If he has set a spring gun there for thieves, and the gun goes off and shoots you, you can recover damages from him. This has been decided in Iowa. But if the transaction took place at night, then you

couldn't get any damages.

Frank Carew boughts gun in London three years ago and went to Africa to shoot antelope with it. He was plugging away with it one day when it burst and hurt him. He went right back to London and sued the dealer who seld him the gun for \$5,000 damages, and what is more, he got the

The biggest damage suit on record, so far as anyoody seems to know, was brought a good many years ago by the Webster Loom Company against E. S. Higgins & Co., for the infringement of a patent wire motion in a carpet loom. The damage claimed was assessed at \$98,750,000. Of course, that suit is too fat in pickings for the lawyers to permit it to come to an end. It is still JOHN PAUL BOCOCK.

It is related of a king of Wurtemberg, in the Faderland, that he was almost

as big as his kingdom. He was extremely fat, in fact, so big that in petticoats with a clean shave he would have been able to command his own terms from dime museum managers as a fat lady. The most prominent feature of the kingy in fact his chief characteristic, was his stomach. He had a paunch that was simply enormous. The Merry Wives of Windoor found it hard to squeeze jolly Sir John Falstaff into an immense clothes basket, but if they had had to deal with a man as big as the fat king of Wurtemberg they would have had to use a coal bin or box

On certain days when the king was feeling well he would give his people a chance to look at him. And he would chance to look at him. And he would grant the favor by appearing at one of his palace windows. He could not get all of himself into view at the window but he did the best he could. He wedged his big abdomen into the open window so that it protruded out like one side of a balloon. As soon as the assembled multitude saw this they always gave a shout of joy and cried: ways gave a shout of joy and cried: "Behold the king!"—Peck's Sun.

Doctors? Pshaw! Take Beecham's

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OF THE BIG MORMON TEMPLE

The announcement that the Mormon temple at Salt Lake City is completed at ast, that the capstone was put in place



THE TEMPLE.

and the gilded angel raised in view of 40,000 shouting people, is calculated to excite in those familiar with Mormon history a smile or a sigh, according to personal feeling. One thing may be admitted by all: This temple has been raised in the face of greater difficulties than any other structure in the nation, and it stands as a beautiful and lasting monument of persistence without a modern parallel.

The Mormons completed their first temple at Kirtland, O., and dedicated it March 27, 1836. Its estimated cost was \$40,000, and it still stands, but it was ong used as a warehouse, and has since been restored and beautified by the Josephite Mormons. It looks like an ordinary country church, with an upper story and peculiar spire. These people laid the foundation of their next temple at Independence, Mo., Aug. 2, 1831, but were driven out of that county before doing more. It is an odd fact that the region they occupied was the scene of furious contention during the Kansas troubles and was desolated during the civil war, yet today that county (Jackson) contains as many people as Utah, much more wealth and the second city in the state, and romance and satire combine in the fact that the site of the temple, which in Mormon faith is to be the greatest in the world, is now owned by a dissenting sect of that people known as the "Twelvites."

The third temple foundation was laid at Nauvoo in 1840 and the structure was completed and dedicated in 1846, the



work of the last few weeks being done in the midst of almost continual war. Sixteen thousand Mormons had already fled from the state, but the apostles returned in disguise to dedicate the building. With tears and prayers, songs and rejoicing, mingled with muttered curses on their enemies, the ceremony of dedication was performed, but scarely had the notes of the trumpet ceased and the last hymn died on the air when the work of removing the sacred ornaments began. Everything portable was packed for Utah and the building was dismantled to the bare walls.

Not a stone now marks the spot where it stood. In the autumn of 1846 the cannon of invading militia battered its walls. Nov. 10, 1848, fire destroyed all the woodwork, and in November, 1850. a hurricane damaged the walls beyond repair. The fire was lighted by a Gen-tile of the vicinity who had been injured by the Mormons and had sworn "no trace of them should cumber the soil of Illinois." In Utah small edifices dignified as temples were long completed in the outer settlements, but the great temple, whose cornerstone was laid. April 6, 1858, was thirty-nine years in reaching completion. President Wilford Woodruff, who efficiated as head of the church, is eighty-five years old and the last survivor of the apostles of Nau-

Be it that the temple is a monument of folly and fanaticism, it is at least



THE TABERNACLE.

lendid and harmless one. It is 99 feet wide, 200 feet long and 188 feet high to the top of the corner finals. The central tower is 210 feet high and on it stands the truly colessal statue of the Angel Morent. The material of the walls is a light gray granite, and the total cost of the structure is at least \$3,000,000.



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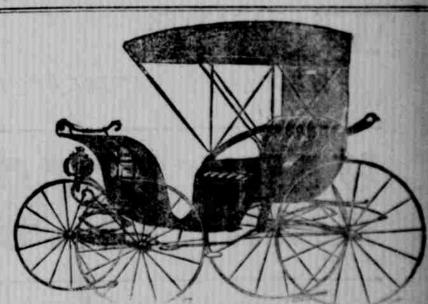
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